

REMARKS

The specification and abstract have been amended to make editorial changes therein, bearing in mind the criticisms in the Official Action, to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The Official Action objects to the form of claims 10 and 19 and rejects claims 1-24 under §112, second paragraph. These claims have been amended as to form and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 8-9, 11-14, 17 and 22 were rejected as anticipated by O'NEIL et al. 4,812,629. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Amended claim 1 defines an installation for monitoring containers that are each equipped with an information medium, where the installation includes a storage zone for storing plural containers and including an access for a user to directly access the entire storage zone and all of the plural containers stored therein, a device for identifying the user, a reading device able to read the information on the containers' information medium, and data exploitation means exploiting at least the information read by the reading device. See, for example, Figure 5 and the access 118 to the storage zone 103 in which the containers are stored.

O'NEIL et al. do not disclose an access for a user to directly access the entire storage zone and all of the plural

containers stored therein and thus these claims avoid the rejection under §102. By contrast to claim 1 herein, O'NEIL et al. disclose a system that permits direct access to only a single selected one of the videocassette storage bins, and denies access to all of the other bins.

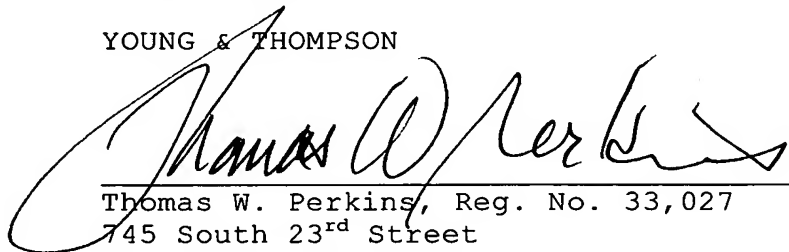
Claims 5-7, 10, 15-16, 18-21, and 23-24 were rejected as unpatentable over O'NEIL et al. in view of McCARRICK et al. 5,953,682. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested. McCARRICK et al. is applied for limitations other than those discussed above and thus does not make up to shortcomings of O'NEIL et al.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas W. Perkins", is written over a horizontal line.

Thomas W. Perkins, Reg. No. 33,027
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

TWP/lrs

APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item:

- replacement Abstract